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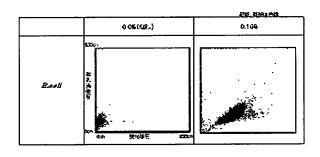
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(54) 【発明の名称】 雑菌の染色方法及び輸出方法

(57)【要約】

【課題】 試料中に夾雑物が存在しても、培養することなりに細菌を迅速に効率よく検出できるような染色方法ならびに、検出方法を提供する

【解決手段】 p H 2.0~4.5において、細菌を含む試料に、カチオン性界面活性剤を作用させて細菌の色素透過性を亢進させ、さらに、色素を作用させて細菌を染色する。



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【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 pH2.0~4.5において、細菌を含む試料 に、カチオン性界面活性剤を作用させて細菌の色素透過 性を亢造させ、さらに、色素を作用させて細菌を染色す るととからなる、細菌の染色方法。

【請求項2】 前記色素が、少なくとも細菌を構成する 成分の一つと結合し、蛍光を発する蛍光色素である請求 項1記載の細菌の染色方法。

【請求項3】 前記蛍光色素が、以下の群から選択され る少なくとも1つである請求項2記載の細菌の染色方 法。;

(1) チアゾールオレンジ

(2)

CIO4 -

* (3)

2

(4)

(5)

30

(6)

፠ (8)

(7)

106)

$$CH_3$$
 CH_2I_3
 CH_2I_3
 CH_2I_3
 CH_2I_3
 CH_2I_3
 CH_2I_3
 CH_3
 CH_3

Ж

(9)

(10)以下の一般式で表される化合物:

(式中、R,は水素原子又は炭素数1~3のアルキル 基:R、及びR、は水素原子、炭素数1~3のアルキル基 又は炭素数1~3のアルコキシ基:R。は水素原子、ア 10 である) シル基又は炭素数1~3のアルキル基;R5は水素原 子、置換されていてもよい炭素数1~3のアルキル基:※

3

※ 2は確貴原子、酸素原子又は炭素数1~3のアルキル基 で置換された炭素原子:nは1又は2;X-はアニオン

(11)以下の一般式で表される化合物:

[(t10]

$$R_3$$

$$Z$$

$$CH = CH \rightarrow_R CH$$

$$R_3$$

$$R_4$$

$$R_4$$

(式中、R、は水素原子又は炭素数1~18のアルキル) 基:R、及びR。は水素原子、炭素数1~3のアルキル基 又は炭素数1~3のアルコキシ基:R。は水素原子、ア シル墓、又は炭素数1~18のアルキル基;2は蘿黄、 酸素。あるいは炭素数1~3のアルキル基を有する炭素 であり; nは(),1又は2であり; X-はアニオンであ る)。

【請求項4】 前記pHを維持するためにpKa 1~5 の緩衝剤を使用する請求項1記載の細菌の染色方法。

【請求項5】 該緩衝剤が、クエン酸塩、リン酸塩、フ タル酸塩、グリシン、コハケ酸、乳酸、β-アラニン、 ε-アミノカプロン酸及びフマル酸からなる群より選択 される少なくとも1つである請求項4記載の細菌の染色 方法。

【請求項6】 カチオン性界面活性剤が、以下の式で示 される四級アンモニウム塩;

[(1:1)

$$\begin{array}{c} R_1 \\ I \\ R_2 - N \stackrel{\leftarrow}{-} R_4 \quad Y^- \\ I \\ R_3 \end{array}$$

(式中、R,は炭素数8~18のアルキル基:R, R, 及びR。は同一又は異なって、炭素数1~3のアルキル 基またはベンジル基:YTはハロゲンイオンである)で ある請求項1記載の細菌の染色方法。

【請求項7】 四級アンモニウム塩が、デシルトリメチ ルアンモニウム塩、ドデシルトリメチルアンモニウム 塩、テトラデシルトリメチルアンモニウム塩、ヘキサデ シルトリメチルアンモニウム塩及びオクタデシルトリメ 50 【従来の技術】尿中細菌数は感染の有無を判定する上で

20 チルアンモニウム塩からなる群より選択される少なくと も1つである請求項6記載の細菌の染色方法。

【請求項8】 さらに硫酸塩または硝酸塩のうちいずれ かの無機塩の共存下で染色を行う請求項1記載の細菌の **築色方法。**

【請求項9】 以下の工程を含む細菌検出法:

①細菌を含む試料を、カチオン系界面活性剤を含むpH2、 9~4.5の水溶液で希釈し、細菌の色素透過性を亢進させ る工程

◎該試料を蛍光色素を用いて一定時間染色反応させるエ

◎前記工程で処理された試料をフローサイトメータの検 出部に導入し、染色された細菌の細胞ーつ一つに光を照 射し、該細胞から発せられる散乱光及び覚光を測定する 工程

の測定した散乱光及び蛍光の信号強度または、粒子の長 さを反映するバルス幅に基づいて細菌と他の成分を分離 ・計数する工程

【請求項10】 細菌と他の成分を分離して計数する工 程が、次の組合せから選ばれた少なくとも一つの組み合 40 わせである請求項7の細菌計数方法

の前方散乱光強度と前方散乱光パルス帽

②前方散乱光強度と覚光強度

❷前方散乱光パルス幅と蛍光強度

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、臨床試料中の細 菌」とくに好適には尿試料中に存在する細菌の染色方法 および検出方法に関する。

[0002]

臨床診断上、重要なパラメーターである。一般的に、尿 鋸感染症(Urnnary Tract Infection)の判定基準とし

て、尿中細菌数が105個/ml以上出現した場合を陽性とする。また103個/ml以下では汚染尿(鴬在菌)であるとして 陰性としている。104個/ml程度の場合は判定保留域であ るが、再換領域とする場合が多い。

【①①①3】従来から行われている尿中細菌の確認方法 としては、グラム染色した後質微鏡下で確認する。 無染 色で顕微鏡下で確認する。 蛍光染色した後顕微鏡下で確 認する、といった方法などが挙げられる。

【①①①4】尿中には夾雑物と言われる臨床上有用ではない結液糸、結晶、無晶性塩類、細胞の断片がしばしばみられこれらが重要な測定粒子(特に細菌)の妨害となり、細菌数を正確に計数することは困難であった。現実的には104個/m1程度の菌数を精度良く計数する方法は存在しなかった。

【①①①5】例えば、グラム染色は、細菌と夾雑物が同時に染色されるため、顕微鏡下において数の少ない細菌の見落としが多い。また染色工程が複数あり、染色に時間を要する(約15分)ため、作業効率が悪かった。

【0006】また、無染色鏡検は、方法としては迅速であるが、特に球菌状の夾雑物が出現した場合には菌との 弁別が不可能である。

【0007】 蛍光染色鏡鏡については、細菌検出性能は 上記二つの方法よりも高いが、細菌以外の夾雑物が復入 した場合に、それらを効果的に除去し、さらに細菌を迅 速に染色する方法については関示されていない。

【① ① ② 8】なお、標準法である寒天培地法の場合は、 函数の測定に 1 6 時間以上要し、迅速とは言い難い。

【0009】また、米国特許第4,622,298号、特開平9-119926号には営光染色された尿試料をフローサイトメータで測定し細菌を検出する方法が提案されているが、いずれも夾雑物を含んだ試料を測定してはいない。さらに、特闘平9-329596号には、尿中の有形成分の分析において、互いに弁別の困難な成分の分析方法として、尿試料を异面活性剤を含む水溶液で処理し、フローサイトメータで測定する方法が記載されているが、細菌と夾雑物を弁別する方法を関示してはいない。

[0010]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】本発明は、試料中に夾維物が存在しても、培養することなしに細菌を迅速に効率よく検出できるような染色方法ならびに、検出方法を提供することを目的とする。

[0011]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明の細菌染色方法は、pH2.0~4.5において、細菌を含む試料に、カチオン性界面活性剤を作用させて細菌の色素透過性を亢進させ、さらに、色素を作用させて細菌を染色することからなる。

[0012]

【発明の実施の形態】本発明者らは、上記のpHにおいては、(1)細菌が中性やアルカリ性よりも良く染色されること、(2)粘液糸の非特異染色を抑え、かつ粘液糸をある程度溶解させることができること、を見出した

【①①14】カチオン性界面活性剤はとくに限定されないが、好適には以下の式で示される四級アンモニウム 塩;

[(t12]

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$$R_{2} - N - R_{4} - Y - R_{3}$$

(式中、R,は炭素数 $8\sim18$ のアルキル甚;R, R, 及びR,は同一又は異なって、炭素数 $1\sim3$ のアルキル基またはベンジル基;Y⁻はハロゲンイオンである)が使用できる。

30 【0015】例えば、デシルトリメチルアンモニウム塩、ドデシルトリメチルアンモニウム塩、テトラデシルトリメチルアンモニウム塩、ヘキザデシルトリメチルアンモニウム塩のびオクタデシルトリメチルアンモニウム塩が好適に使用される。使用置については、10~3000cm q/1、好ましくは100~3000mq/1が好適である。

【0016】細菌を含む試料に、カチオン性界面活性剤を添加することにより、細菌の細胞膜が傷害され、色素が入り込みやすくなる。その結果、細菌の細胞内の物質と色素とが効率よく結合して細菌がよく染色され、夾雑物と弁別しやすくなる。一方、粘液糸や赤血球や細胞の破片などは、溶解あるいは収縮し、細菌の検出への影響が低減されることとなる。

【①①17】色素については、前記p H域で細菌を染色できるものであれば特に制限されない。濃度については、色素ごとに好適な濃度は異なるが、例えば、0.1~1 GOppm(最終濃度)の範囲で使用できる。なお、細菌の検出能力の点から、使用する色素は、少なくとも細菌を構成する成分の一つと結合し、蛍光を発する蛍光色素を使うのが有利である。例えば、以下の(1)~(11)50 の色素が使用できる。

【0027】(10)以下の一般式で表される化合物: 【化21】

(式中、R、は水素原子又は炭素数1~3のアルキル 基:R,及びR。は水素原子、炭素数1~3のアルキル基 又は炭素数!~3のアルコキシ基: R。は水素原子、ア シル基又は炭素数1~3のアルキル基:R 5は水素原 子、置換されていてもよい炭素数1~3のアルキル基;* * 2は職責原子、酸素原子又は炭素数1~3のアルキル基 で置換された炭素原子;nは1又は2;X-はアニオン である)

19 【0028】(11)以下の一般式で表される化合物: [ft22]

$$R_{2}$$

$$C H = C H \rightarrow_{\overline{u}} C H$$

$$R_{4}$$

$$X^{-}$$

(式中、R、は水素原子又は炭素数1~18のアルキル 基:R、及びR。は水素原子、炭素数1~3のアルキル基 又は炭素数1~3のアルコキシ基:R。は水素原子、ア シル基、又は炭素数1~18のアルキル基:2は醸費、 酸素。あるいは炭素数1~3のアルキル基を有する炭素 であり; nは(),1又は2であり; X-はアニオンであ る)。

【0029】とれらの色素のうち、(1)は市販品を入 手できる。(2)、(3)は日本感光色素研究所(株)※ ※より入手できる。(5)~(9)は、Molecular Probe s,Inc.より入手できる。

【0030】また、(10)は、特開平9-10468 3号に、(11)は、特開平10-319010号に製 造方法が記載されている。

【0031】なお、(10)の一般式で示される色素の うち、特に、次の色素:

[fb23]

【0032】また、(11)の一般式で示される色素の ★【化24】 うち、特に次の色素:

が好適である。

【0033】さらに、硫酸塩または硝酸塩のうちいずれ かの無機塩の共存下で染色を行うことで、細菌の蛍光染 色性を増大させ、夾雑物の非特異染色を抑制することが できるので好ましい。使用量としては、10~500mM、好 ましくは50~200mMの濃度範囲で使用できる。

【①①34】本発明の染色法では、尿試料で確認される 細菌、例えば、E.coli, Staphyrococcus sp., Pseudomo nas sp., Klebsiella sp., Serratia sp., Enterobacte r sp., Enterococcus sp., Streptpococcus sp.及びCit 50 と混合するようにしておけば、色素の保存安定性を向上

robacter sp.などが好適に染色される。また、尿試料に 限らず、血液、髄液など他の臨床試料にも適用できる。 【① 035】本発明の染色法は、試料、カチオン性界面 活性剤を含む水溶液、色素を含む溶液を混合することで 実施できる。なお、色素はカチオン性界面活性剤を含む 水溶液中に含有させてもよいが、使用する色素が水溶液 中では不安定な場合には、色素をメタノール、エタノー ルやエチレングリコールなどの水溶性有機溶媒中に溶解

しておき、使用時にカチオン性界面活性剤を含む水溶液

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させることができる。

【0036】反応温度・時間は特に限定されないが、温度は、15~50℃、時間は、混合直後から15分間で 実施できる。

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【① ① 3 7 】本発明の染色法により染色された試料は、 顕微鏡や画像認識装置で観察して細菌を検出することも できるが、フローサイトメトリによって細菌を高精度で 検出・計数することができる。

【①①38】すなわち本発明の細菌の検出方法は、①細菌を含む試料を、カチオン性界面活性剤を含むpt2.0~4.5の水溶液で希釈し、細菌の色素透過性を亢進させ、②該試料を蛍光色素を用いて一定時間染色反応させ、③前記工程で処理された試料をフローサイトメータの検出部に導入し、染色された細菌の細胞一つ一つに光を照射し、該細胞から発せられる散乱光及び蛍光を測定し、④測定した散乱光及び蛍光の信号強度または、粒子の長さを反映するバルス幅に基づいて細菌と他の成分を分離*

*・計骸する工程を含む。

【①①③9】細菌と他の成分を分離・計数するには、測定によって得られた信号を組み合わせて行うことができる。信号の組み合わせとして例えば、前方散乱光強度と前方散乱光パルス幅、前方散乱光強度と対光強度。前方散乱光パルス幅と対光強度の組み合わせが挙げられる。好適には、例えばまず前方散乱光強度と前方散乱光パルス幅の組み合わせで2次元分布図(スキャッタグラム)を作成し、分布図上で細菌を含む集団を特定してゲーティングを行い。主に粘液糸を分離し、さらに、ゲーティングされた集団に対して、前方散乱光強度と対光強度の組み合わせで、さらに2次元分布図を作成し、蛍光強度の違いから細菌と他の成分(結晶や細胞の破片など)を分離する。概念図を図7に示す。

[0040]

【実施例】以下に好適な実施例を示すが、本発明はこれ に限定されない。

実施例1

試薬組成

(喬釈液)

クエン酸

MaCH

テトラデシルトリメチルアンモニウムプロマイド

n#Ha

100mM

pH4.1になる量

0.1%(w/v)

(染色液)

色素A (以下の構造式)

40ppm (エチレングリコール溶液)

[ft25]

【① 041】培養大腸菌を含む試料100μ1に、上記組成の希釈液1000μ1及び染色液を色素Aの最終濃度が1ppmになるように添加し、40℃、30秒間反応させ、赤色半導体レーザーを光纜とするフローサイトメータで散乱光及び蛍光の測定を行った(分析容置7.8μ1)。対照として、テトラデシルトリメチルアンモニウムプロマイドを含まない試業を用いて測定を行った。結果を図1に示す。

※【①①42】テトラデシルトリメチルアンモニウムプロマイドを含まない試棄を用いた場合(図中左)は、蛍光強度が30ch以下で、大腸菌はほとんど染色されていなかった。一方、テトラデシルトリメチルアンモニウムプロマイドを0.1%(w/v)を含む場合は(図中古)、大腸菌の集団が蛍光強度で50ch以上に分布し、染色性が増大していることが確認された。

 $\times 40$ [0043]

実施例2

試薬組成

(喬釈液)

クエン酸

テトラデシルトリメチルアンモニウムプロマイド

100mM(pH2.5) 0.1%(w/v)

90mM

硫酸ナトリウム

(染色液)

実施例1と同じ

【① ① 4.4 】上記組成の試薬を用いて、各培養細菌 (E. ns) を含む試料を実施例 】と同様に測定した。結果を図coln、S.aureus、K.pneumonnae、C.freundhi、E.faecal 50 2に示す。

【0045】各細菌とも、テトラデシルトリメチルアンモニウムプロマイドを含まない場合は、蛍光強度が低く、ほとんど染色されていないが、テトラデシルトリメチルアンモニウムプロマイドを添加することによって、蛍光強度が増大し、よく染色されていることが確認された。また、大陽菌測定において、硫酸ナトリウムをさらに添加している場合(本実能例)と、硫酸ナトリウムを含まない場合(実施例1)と比べて、本実施例においては、蛍光強度がより増大しており、硫酸ナトリウムの添加による効果が認められた。

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【0046】実施例3

希釈直線性

大蝎菌を培養し、希釈係数1,10,100,1000,10000,100000,00000の希釈試料を作成し、実施例2と同じ試業を用いて同様に測定を行った。結果を図3に示す。なお、菌数は、前方数乱光強度と蛍光強度の組み合わせで2次元分布図を作成し、分布図上で細菌を含む集団を特定してゲーティングを行うことにより求めた。図3に示したように、菌数約10°~10°個/m1の範囲で良好な直線性が得られた。

【0047】実施例4

尿試料の測定

実施例2と同じ試業を用いて尿検体62検体について測定を行い、対照としたQED培地による培養法での測定結果との相関について検討した。

【①①48】菌数の測定は、まず前方散乱光強度と前方 散乱光パルス帽の組み合わせで2次元分布図を作成し、 分布図上で細菌を含む集団を特定してゲーティングを行い、さらに、ゲーティングされた集団について、前方散 乱光強度と蛍光強度の組み合わせで、さらに2次元分布 図を作成し、蛍光強度の違いから細菌の領域を特定し、 特定された領域内の数を求めた。結果を図4に示す。

【①①49】CLED培地による培養法での結果と良好な相関が得られた。なお、図4において、縦軸にいくつか点が見られるが、とればQED培地による培養法では、生きた細菌のみ検出するのに対し、本発明では、培地では生えにくい菌(静菌:薬剤などの影響により生育しにくくなっている菌)及び死菌も検出しているためと考えられる。

【0050】実施例5

血液培養試料の測定

細菌を含む血液試料を血液培養ボトルを用いて培養し、 培養液を測定した。グラム陰性桿菌(Pseudzmonas s p.) の結果を図らに、グラム陽性球菌(Staphyrococcus sp.)の結果を図6に示す。なお、菌数は、前方散乱光強度と覚光強度の組み合わせで2次元分布図を作成し、分布図上で細菌を含む集団を特定してゲーティングを行うことにより求めた。対照は、KOBA 10グリッド(HYCOR BICMEDICAL INC.)を用いて目視で確認した。グラム陰性桿菌は、本発明では、5.2×10/mlに対し、目視法では、2.9×10/mlに対し、目視法では、2.9×10/mlに対し、目視法では、3.8×10/mlであった。

10 [0051]

【発明の効果】本発明の染色方法によれば、水系で染色されるため、グラム染色のような乾燥固定は必ずしも必要としない。このため、染色工程を含めて短時間で測定用試料が調製でき、染色時間の大幅な短縮が可能である。

【0052】また、検体と試薬を混合するだけの簡単な 操作で実施でき、グラム染色のような熱線は必要でな い。さらに、染色工程が簡単であるため、染色から測定 (プローサイトメトリや画像解析など)までの自動化が 20 容易である。

【①①53】さらに、本発明の細菌検出方法によれば、 夾雑物の影響を受けることなく、精度よく細菌を計数す ることが可能である。具体的には、101個/mi程度の菌 数を計数可能である。

【① ① 5.4 】また、培地では生えにくい菌(静菌作用のある絵体など)についても確実に捉えることができる。 【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の実施例1において、培養大腸菌を測定 したときの蛍光強度-前方散乱光強度のスキャッタグラ 30 ムである。

【図2】本発明の実施例2において、培養した各種細菌 を測定したときの営光強度 - 前方散乱光強度のスキャッ タグラムである。

【図3】本発明の実施例3において、希釈直線性試験の 結果を示したグラフである。

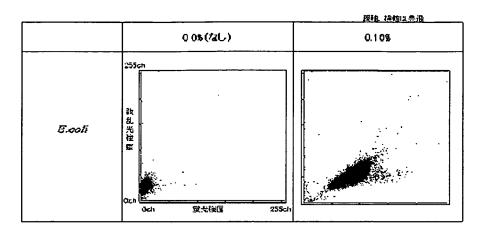
【図4】本発明の実施例4において、本発明の方法とCLED培地での測定結果との組関図である。

【図5】本発明の実施例5において グラム陰性程菌の 測定結果を示したスキャッタグラムである。

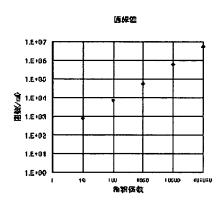
40 【図6】本発明の実施例6において、グラム陽性球菌の 側定結果を示したスキャッタグラムである。

【図7】本発明における細菌の検出方法の概念図である。

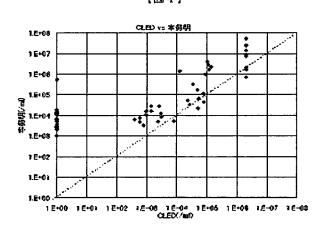
[図1]



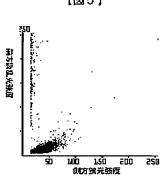




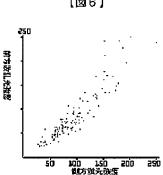
[図4]



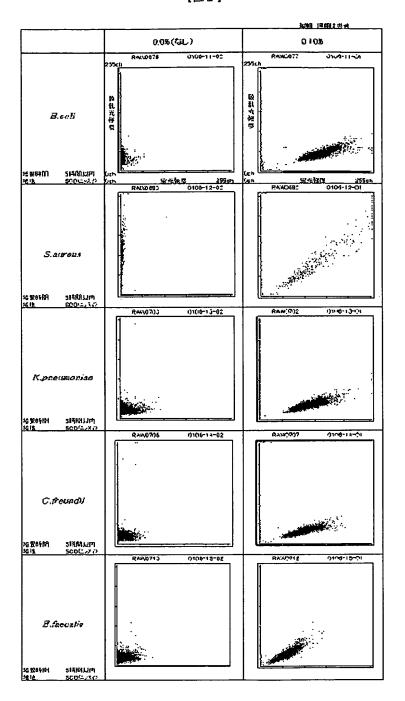
[図5]



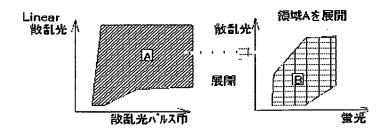
[図6]



[図2]



[図7]



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【手続箱正書】

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【手統緒正1】

【補正対象書類名】明細書

【補正対象項目名】特許請求の範囲

【補正方法】変更

【補正内容】

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 p月2.0~4.5において、細菌を含む試料に、カチオン性界面活性剤を作用させて細菌の色素透過性を亢進させ、さらに、色素を作用させて細菌を*

*染色することからなる、細菌の染色方法。

【請求項2】 前記色素が、少なくとも細菌を構成する 成分の一つと結合し、質光を発する蛍光色素である請求 項1記載の細菌の染色方法。

【請求項3】 前記蛍光色素が、以下の群から選択される少なくとも1つである請求項2記載の細菌の染色方法。:

(1) チアゾールオレンジ

(2)

【化1】

(3)

[化2]

(4)

[化5]

(10)以下の一般式で表される化合物:

[化11]

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
R_3 & C - C_1 - C_2 - C_3 - C_4 $

(式中、R1は水素原子又は炭素数1~3のアルキル基;R2及びR3は水素原子、炭素数1~3のアルキル基又は炭素数1~3のアルコキシ基;R4は水素原子、アシル基又は炭素数1~3のアルキル基;R5は水素原子、置換されていてもよい炭素数1~3のアルキル基;2は議費原子、酸素原子又は炭素数1~3のアルキル基*

*で置換された炭素原子;nは1又は2;X-はアニオンである)

(11)以下の一般式で表される化合物: 【化12】

$$R_{3}$$

$$C H = C H \rightarrow_{\alpha} C H$$

$$R_{1}$$

$$R_{3}$$

(式中、R1は水素原子又は炭素数1~18のアルキル基;R2及びR3は水素原子、炭素数1~3のアルキル基又は炭素数1~3のアルコキシ基;R4は水素原子、アシル基、又は炭素数1~18のアルキル基;Zは硫黄、酸素、あるいは炭素数1~3のアルキル基を有する炭素であり;nは0、1又は2であり;X-はアニオンである)。

【請求項4】 前記p 日を維持するためにp Ka $1\sim$ 5 の緩衝剤を使用する請求項1記載の細菌の染色方法。 【請求項5】 該緩衝剤が、クエン酸塩、リン酸塩、フタル酸塩、グリシン、コハク酸、乳酸、 β - アラニン、 ϵ - アミノカプロン酸及びフマル酸からなる群より選択される少なくとも1つである請求項4記載の細菌の染色方法。

【請求項6】 カチオン性界面活性剤が、以下の式で示される四級アンモニウム塩;

[(k13]

$$R_{1}$$
 R_{2} — $N \stackrel{\leftarrow}{-} R_{4} Y^{-}$
 R_{3}

(式中、R、は炭素数8~18のアルキル基:R。、R。及びR。は同一又は異なって、炭素数1~3のアルキル基またはベンジル基; Y^- はハロゲンイオンである)である請求項1記載の細菌の染色方法。

【請求項7】 四級アンモニウム塩が、デシルトリメチルアンモニウム塩、ドデシルトリメチルアンモニウム塩、ヘキサデシルトリメチルアンモニウム塩、ヘキサデシルトリメチルアンモニウム塩からなる群より選択される少なくとも1つである請求項6記載の細菌の染色方法。

【請求項8】 さらに硫酸塩または硝酸塩のうちいずれかの無機塩の共存下で染色を行う請求項1記載の細菌の 染色方法。

【請求項9】 以下の工程を含む細菌検告法:

●細菌を含む試料を、カチオン系界面活性剤を含む p H2. 0~4.5の水溶液で希釈し、細菌の色素透過性を 亢進させる工程

②該試料を蛍光色素を用いて一定時間染色反応させる工程

❸前記工程で処理された試料をフローサイトメータの検 当部に導入し、染色された細菌の細胞一つ一つに光を照 射し、該細胞から発せられる散乱光及び黄光を測定する 工程

●測定した散乱光及び蛍光の信号強度または、粒子の長さを反映するバルス幅に基づいて細菌と他の成分を分離・計数する工程。

【請求項10】 細菌と他の成分を分離して計数する工程が、次の組合せから選ばれた少なくとも一つの組み合わせである請求項7の細菌計数方法

- の前方散乱光強度と前方散乱光パルス幅
- の前方散乱光強度と覚光強度
- ◎前方散乱光パルス幅と蛍光強度。

【請求項11】 (1) カチオン性界面活性剤を含む pH2.0~4.5の水溶液、(2) 色素を含む溶液からなる細菌の染色用試薬。

【請求項12】 前記色素が、少なくとも細菌を構成する成分の一つと結合し、蛍光を発する蛍光色素である請求項11記載の細菌の染色用試業。

水頂11記載の葡萄の栗白市の架。 【請求項13】 前記営光色素が、以下の群から選択さま *れる少なくとも1つである請求項12記載の細菌の染色 用試薬。:

(1) チアゾールオレンジ

(2)

【化26】

(3) 【化27】

ж

(4) [化28] ★ (5) [化29]

(6) 【化30】

CH = CH - CH = N(CH₂)₃N(CH₃)₃

☆

(7)

[fb31]

(式中、R1は水素原子又は炭素数1~3のアルキル基;R2及びR3は水素原子、炭素数1~3のアルキル基又は炭素数1~3のアルコキシ基;R4は水素原子、アシル基又は炭素数1~3のアルキル基;R5は水素原子、置換されていてもよい炭素数1~3のアルキル基;2は硫黄原子、酸素原子又は炭素数1~3のアルキル基

で置換された炭素原子;nは1又は2;X-はアニオンである)

(11)以下の一般式で表される化合物: 【化35】

$$R_{2}$$

$$Z$$

$$CH = CH \rightarrow_{n} CH$$

$$R_{1}$$

$$X^{-}$$

$$R_{2}$$

(式中、R1は水素原子又は炭素数1~18のアルキル基:R2及びR3は水素原子、炭素数1~3のアルキル基又は炭素数1~3のアルコキシ基;R4は水素原子、アシル基、又は炭素数1~18のアルキル基;Zは硫黄、酸素、あるいは炭素数1~3のアルキル基を有する炭素であり;nは0,1又は2であり;X-はアニオンである)。

【請求項14】 前記pHを維持するためにpKa 1 ~5の経筒剤を使用する請求項11記載の細菌の染色用試薬。

【請求項15】 該緩倫剤が、クエン酸塩、リン酸塩、フタル酸塩、グリシン、コハク酸、乳酸、βーアラニン、εーアミノカプロン酸及びフマル酸からなる群より 選択される少なくとも1つである請求項14記載の細菌の染色用試業。

【請求項16】 カチオン性界面活性剤が、以下の式で 示される四級アンモニウム塩

[{£36}

*
$$R_1$$
 $R_2 - N - R_4$ $Y - R_3$

(式中、R、は炭素数8~18のアルキル基:R2、R3及びR2は同一又は異なって、炭素数1~3のアルキル基またはベンジル基; Y^{-1} はハロゲンイオンである)である請求項11記載の細菌の染色用試業。

【請求項17】 四級アンモニウム塩が、デシルトリメチルアンモニウム塩、ドデシルトリメチルアンモニウム塩、ヘキサデシルトリメチルアンモニウム塩、ヘキサデシルトリメチルアンモニウム塩からなる群より選択される少なくとも1つである請求項16記載の細菌の染色用試薬。

【請求項18】 さらに議酸塩または硝酸塩のうちいずれかの無機塩を含む請求項11記載の細菌の染色用試業。

【手続浦正書】

【提出日】平成15年3月26日(2003.3.2 6)

【手統續正】】

【補正対象書類名】明細書

【補正対象項目名】請求項3

【補正方法】変更

【補正内容】

※【請求項3】 前記賞光色素が、以下の群から選択される少なくとも1つである請求項2記載の細菌の染色方法。;

(1) チアゾールオレンジ

(2)

[(t]

*

(3) [(£2]

(9) [化8]

(10)以下の一般式で表される化合物:

[ft9]

R₃
Z
(C=C)-C=C
R₅

R₅

X

R₅

(式中、R1は水素原子又は炭素数1~3のアルキル基; R2及びR3は水素原子、炭素数1~3のアルキル基又は炭素数1~3のアルコキシ基; R4は水素原子、アシル基又は炭素数1~3のアルキル基; R5は水素原子、置換されていてもよい炭素数1~3のアルキル基; 2は議費原子、酸素原子又は炭素数1~3のアルキル基※

※で置換された炭素原子:nは1又は2;X-はアニオンである)

(11)以下の一般式で表される化合物:

【化10】

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
R_{2} & Z \\
\hline
R_{1} & X^{-}
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
C & H = C & H \rightarrow_{n} & C &$$

(式中、R 1は水素原子又は炭素数1~18のアルキル基;R 2及びR 3は水素原子、炭素数1~3のアルキル基又は炭素数1~3のアルコキシ基;R 4 は水素原子、アシル基、又は炭素数1~18のアルキル基;Z は硫黄、酸素、あるいは炭素数1~3のアルキル基を有する炭素であり;n は0 、1又は2であり;X - はアニオンである)。

【手続浦正2】

【補正対象書類名】明細書

【補正対象項目名】請求項6

【補正方法】変更

【補正内容】

【請求項6】 カチオン性界面活性剤が、以下の式で示

される四級アンモニウム塩: 【化11】

(式中、R。は炭素数8~18のアルキル基:R。、R。及びR。は同一又は異なって、炭素数1~3のアルキル基またはベンジル基;Y-はハロゲンイオンである)である請求項1記載の細菌の染色方法。

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)

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(72)Inventor: INOUE JUNYA

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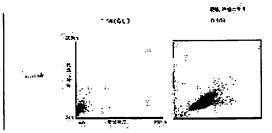
KAWASHIMA YASUYUKI

(54) METHOD FOR DYEING BACTERIUM AND METHOD FOR DETECTING THE BACTERIUM

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a method for dyeing a bacterium, which enables the rapid and efficient detection of the bacterium without culturing the bacterium, even when impurities exist in a specimen, and to provide a method for detecting the bacterium.

SOLUTION: This method for dyeing the bacterium, comprising allowing a cationic surfactant to act on a specimen containing the bacterium at pH 2.0 to 4.5 to stimulate the pigment permeability of the bacterium, and then further allowing a pigment to act on the bacterium to dye the bacterium with the pigment.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the dyeing method and detecting method of the bacteria in a clinical sample, and the bacteria which exist in a urine sample suitably especially.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]When the bacterial count in urine judges the existence of infection, it is an important parameter on a clinical diagnosis. Generally, the case where 105 or more bacterial counts/ml in urine appear is made into a positivity as a judging standard of urinary tract infection (Urinary Tract Infection). It is considered as negativity noting that it is contamination urine (normal bacterial flora) in 103 or less pieces/ml. About 104 cases/ml are made into re-**** in many cases, although it is a judgment suspension region.

[0003] The method of checking under a microscope as the check method of the bacteria in urine currently performed from the former, after [which is checked under a microscope by no dyeing / which is checked under a microscope] carrying out Gram's stain, and carrying out fluorescent staining, etc. are mentioned.

[0004]It was difficult to often see in urine the fragment of mucus thread which is not useful, a crystal, amorphous salts, and a cell on clinical [which is called impurity], and for these to serve as disturbance of important measurement particles (especially bacteria), and to calculate a bacterial count correctly. The method of calculating about 104 number of microorganism/ml with sufficient accuracy actually did not exist.

[0005] For example, since bacteria and impurity are dyed simultaneously, Gram's stain has many oversights of bacteria with few numbers under a microscope. Working efficiency was bad in order that those with two or more and dyeing might take time to a dyeing process (about 15 minutes).

[0006] Although undyed microscopy is quick as a method, when especially micrococcus-like impurity appears, discrimination with a bacillus is impossible.

[0007] Although bacteria detection capacity is higher than the two above-mentioned methods about fluorescent-staining microscopy, when impurity other than bacteria mixes, they are removed effectively and it is not indicated about the method of dyeing bacteria promptly further.

[0008]In the case of the agar-medium method which is a standard method, it requires for measurement of number of microorganism for 16 hours or more, and is hard to say that it is quick.

[0009] Although the method of measuring the urine sample by which fluorescent staining was carried out to U.S. Pat. No. 4,622,298 and JP,9-119926, A with flow cytometer, and detecting bacteria is proposed, neither has measured the sample having contained impurity. Although the method of processing a urine sample in the solution containing a surface-active agent, and

measuring it with flow cytometer as analytical method of the difficult ingredient of discrimination mutually in analysis of the physical component in urine is indicated to JP,9-329596,A, the method of discriminating from bacteria and impurity is not indicated. [0010]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]An object of this invention is to provide the dyeing method which can detect bacteria efficiently promptly without cultivating, and a detecting method, even if impurity exists in a sample.

[0011]

[Means for Solving the Problem] A bacteria dyeing method of this invention consists of making a cationic surface-active agent act, accelerating bacterial coloring matter permeability in a sample containing bacteria, making coloring matter act on it further, and dyeing bacteria it in pH 2.0-4.5.

[0012]

[Embodiment of the Invention]In the above-mentioned pH, this invention persons found out that (1) bacteria are dyed better than neutrality and alkalinity and that un-unique dyeing of (2) mucus thread could be suppressed, and mucus thread could be dissolved to some extent. [0013]In order to maintain said pH, acid or the buffer of electric dissociation exponent 1-5 can be used. If it is said pH range and a thing which can maintain pH 2.0-3.0 preferably, it will not be limited especially as a buffer, but citrate, an phosphate, phthalate, a glycine, succinic acid, lactic acid, beta-alanine, epsilon-aminocaproic acid, fumaric acid, etc. can be used conveniently. The amount used can be used in the quantity which can maintain said pH range, and can be used in the range of 10 - 500mM.

[0014]Quarternary ammonium salt suitably shown by the following formulas although a cationic surface-active agent in particular is not limited;

It can use $(R_1 \text{ is } [\text{ alkyl group}; R_2 \text{ of the carbon numbers } 8-18, R_3, \text{ and } R_4]$ the same or different among a formula, and alkyl group [of the carbon numbers 1-3] or benzyl; Y is halogen ion).

[0015]For example, decyl trimethylammonium salt, dodecyl trimethylammonium salt, tetradecyl trimethylammonium salt, hexadecyl trimethylammonium salt, and octadecyl trimethylammonium salt are used suitably. About the amount used, 10-30000mg/l. of 100 - 3000 mg/l is preferably preferred.

[0016]By adding a cationic surface-active agent in the sample containing bacteria, injury of the bacterial cell membrane is carried out, and coloring matter enters easily. As a result, a bacterial intracellular substance and coloring matter join together efficiently, bacteria are often dyed, and it becomes easy to discriminate impurity. On the other hand, mucus thread, red corpuscles, the fragment of a cell, etc. will be dissolved or contracted, and the influence of detection on bacterial will be reduced.

[0017]About coloring matter, especially if bacteria can be dyed in said pH region, it will not be restricted. Although suitable concentration differs for every coloring matter about concentration, it can be used in 0.1-100 ppm (the last concentration), for example. As for coloring matter used from a point of bacterial ability to detect, it is advantageous to use a fluorochrome which combines with one of the ingredients which constitute bacteria at least, and shows a fluorescence. For example, coloring matter of the following (1) - (11) can be

used.

[0018](1) Thiazole orange [0019](2)

[0020](3)

[0021](4)

[0022](5)

[0023](6)

[0024](7)

[0025](8)

[Formula 19]

[0026](9)

[Formula 20]

[0027](10) Compound expressed with the following general formulas:[Formula 21]

inside of formula, and R_1 -- alkyl group; R_2 of a hydrogen atom or the carbon numbers 1-3, and R_3 -- a hydrogen atom. The alkyl group of the carbon numbers 1-3, or the alkoxy group of the carbon numbers 1-3; R_4 A hydrogen atom, An acyl group or the alkyl group of the carbon numbers 1-3; 1 or 2; X- of carbon atom; n for which R5 was replaced by the alkyl group of a sulfur atom, an oxygen atom, or the carbon numbers 1-3 as for alkyl group; Z of a hydrogen atom and the carbon numbers 1-3 which may be replaced is an anion.

[0028](11) Compound expressed with the following general formulas: [Formula 22]

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
R_2 \\
Z \\
\downarrow \\
R_1 \\
X^{-}
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
C H = C H \rightarrow_{n} C H = C H \rightarrow_{$$

inside of formula, and R_1 -- alkyl group; R_2 of a hydrogen atom or the carbon numbers 1-18, and R_3 -- a hydrogen atom. An alkyl group of the carbon numbers 1-3, or an alkoxy group of the carbon numbers 1-3; R_4 is a hydrogen atom, an acyl group, or carbon in which alkyl group; Z of the carbon numbers 1-18 has sulfur, oxygen, or an alkyl group of the carbon numbers 1-3,; Z is an anion.

[0029](1) can obtain a commercial item among these coloring matter. (2) and (3) can be obtained from Japanese Sensitizing dye Research institute. (5) - (9) can be obtained from Molecular Probes and Inc.

[0030]As for (11), a manufacturing method is indicated to JP,10-319010,A (10) at JP,9-104683,A.

[0031]It is the following coloring matter especially among coloring matter shown by a general formula of (10).;

[Formula 23]

[0032]Coloring matter of especially the next among coloring matter shown by a general formula of (11);

** -- it is suitable.

[0033]Since bacterial fluorescent-staining nature is increased and un-unique dyeing of impurity can be controlled by dyeing under coexistence of one of mineral salt among sulfate or a nitrate, it is desirable. As the amount used, it can be used preferably ten to 500 mM in the density range of 50 - 200mM.

[0034]the bacteria checked by a urine sample in the staining technique of this invention -- for example, E.coli, Staphyrococcus sp., Pseudomonas sp., Klebsiella sp., Serratia sp., Enterobacter sp., Enterococcus sp., Streptpococc us sp., Citrobacter sp., etc. are dyed suitably. It is applicable not only to a urine sample but other clinical samples, such as blood and cerebrospinal fluid.

[0035]A staining technique of this invention can be enforced by mixing a sample, solution containing a cationic surface-active agent, and a solution containing coloring matter. Although coloring matter may be made to contain in solution containing a cationic surface-active agent, when coloring matter to be used is unstable in solution, Coloring matter is dissolved into water soluble organic solvents, such as methanol, ethanol, and ethylene glycol, and if it is made to mix with solution which contains a cationic surface-active agent at the time of use, the preservation stability of coloring matter can be raised.

[0036] Although in particular reaction temperature and time are not limited, temperature can be carried out at 15-50 **, and time can be carried out in 15 minutes after immediately after mixing.

[0037]Although a sample dyed by a staining technique of this invention can be observed with a microscope or an image recognition device and can also detect bacteria, it can detect and calculate bacteria with high degree of accuracy by flow cytometry.

[0038]Namely, a detecting method of bacteria of this invention dilutes a sample containing ** bacteria with pH 2.0 to 4.5 solution containing a cationic surface-active agent, Accelerate bacterial coloring matter permeability and the fixed time dyeing reaction of the ** this sample is carried out using a fluorochrome, ** Introduce into a primary detecting element of flow cytometer a sample processed at said process, Cell each of dyed bacteria is irradiated, the scattered light and a fluorescence which are shown from this cell are measured, and a process of separating and calculating bacteria and other ingredients based on pulse width reflecting signal strength of the scattered light of which ** measurement was done, and fluorescence, or the length of particles is included.

[0039]In order to separate and calculate bacteria and other ingredients, it can carry out combining a signal acquired by measurement. Combination of for example, forward scattering light intensity, forward scattering optical pulse width and forward scattering light

intensity, fluorescence intensity, and forward scattering optical pulse width and fluorescence intensity is mentioned as a combination of a signal. A two-dimensional distribution map (scatter diagram) is suitably created first, for example in combination of forward scattering light intensity and forward scattering optical pulse width, Specify a group which contains bacteria on a distribution map, perform gating, mainly separate mucus thread, and further to a group by which gating was carried out in combination of forward scattering light intensity and fluorescence intensity. Furthermore a two-dimensional distribution map is created and bacteria and other ingredients (a crystal, a fragment of a cell, etc.) are separated from a difference in fluorescence intensity. A key map is shown in drawing 7. [0040]

[Example] Although the suitable example for below is shown, this invention is not limited to this.

Example 1 reagent presentation (diluent)

Quantity tetradecyl trimethylammonium star's picture set to citrate 100mMNaOH pH4.1 0.1% (w/v) (stain solution)

Coloring matter A (following structural formulae) 40ppm (ethylene glycol solution)

[0041]Diluent 1000mul of the above-mentioned presentation in 100micro of samples I containing culture Escherichia coli and a stain solution were added so that the last concentration of the coloring matter A might be set to 1 ppm, it was made to react for 30 seconds and the flow cytometer which uses a red semiconductor laser as a light source performed 40 ** of measurement of the scattered light and fluorescence (analysis capacity 7.8microl). As contrast, it measured using the reagent which does not contain a tetradecyl trimethylammonium star's picture. A result is shown in drawing 1.

[0042]When the reagent which does not contain a tetradecyl trimethylammonium star's picture was used (left in the figure), fluorescence intensity is 30 or less ch, and most Escherichia coli was not dyed. On the other hand, in the tetradecyl trimethylammonium star's picture, when 0.1% (w/v) was included, the group of (figure Nakamigi) and Escherichia coli was distributed over 50 or more ch with fluorescence intensity, and it was checked that the dye affinity is increasing.

[0043]

example 2 reagent presentation (diluent)

citrate 100mM (pH 2.5) tetradecyl trimethylammonium star's picture 0.1% (w/v) sodium sulfate 90mM (stain solution)

It is the same as Example 1.[0044]The sample containing each culture bacteria (E. coli, S.aureus, Kpneumoniae, C.freundii, E.faecalis) was measured like Example 1 using the reagent of the above-mentioned presentation. A result is shown in <u>drawing 2</u>. [0045]When each bacteria did not contain a tetradecyl trimethylammonium star's picture, fluorescence intensity was low, and they were hardly dyed, but by adding a tetradecyl

trimethylammonium star's picture, fluorescence intensity increased and often being dyed was checked. Compared with the case (this example) where sodium sulfate is added further, and the case (example 1) where sodium sulfate is not included, in this example, fluorescence intensity was increasing more and the effect by addition of sodium sulfate was accepted in Escherichia coli measurement.

[0046]Example 3 dilution linearity Escherichia coli was cultivated, the dilution sample of the dilution factors 1, 10, 100, 1000, 10000, and 100000 was created, and it measured similarly using the same reagent as Example 2. A result is shown in <u>drawing 3</u>. Number of microorganism was searched for by creating a two-dimensional distribution map in the combination of forward scattering light intensity and fluorescence intensity, specifying the group which contains bacteria on a distribution map, and performing gating. As shown in <u>drawing 3</u>, good linearity was acquired in the range of number-of-microorganism abbreviation 10³ - a 10⁷ individual / ml.

[0047]It measured about urine specimen 62 sample using the same reagent as the measurement example 2 of an example 4 urine sample, and correlation with the measurement result in the cultivation by the CLED culture medium considered as contrast was considered. [0048]Measurement of number of microorganism creates a two-dimensional distribution map first in the combination of forward scattering light intensity and forward scattering optical pulse width, The group which contains bacteria on a distribution map was specified, and gating was performed, and further, about the group by which gating was carried out, it is the combination of forward scattering light intensity and fluorescence intensity, the two-dimensional distribution map was created further, the bacterial field was pinpointed from the difference in fluorescence intensity, and it asked for the number in the pinpointed field. A result is shown in drawing 4.

[0049]The result in the cultivation by a CLED culture medium and good correlation were acquired. In <u>drawing 4</u>, although some points are looked at by the vertical axis, this is considered because the bacillus (bacteriostasis; bacillus which is difficult to grow under the influence of drugs etc.) and killed bacteria which do not grow easily are also detected by a culture medium by this invention to detecting only the useful bacteria at the cultivation by a CLED culture medium.

[0050]The blood sample containing the measurement bacteria of an example 5 blood-culture sample was cultivated using the blood culture bottle, and culture medium was measured. The result of a gram-negative Bacillus (Pseudomonas sp.) is shown in <u>drawing 5</u>, and the result of Gram positive coccus (Staphyrococcussp.) is shown in <u>drawing 6</u>. Number of microorganism was searched for by creating a two-dimensional distribution map in the combination of forward scattering light intensity and fluorescence intensity, specifying the group which contains bacteria on a distribution map, and performing gating. Contrast was visually checked using KOBA 10 grid (HYCOR BIOMEDICAL INC.). In this invention, 2.9x10⁵/ml was received in the viewing method, it received 2.3x10⁴/ml by this invention to 5.2x10⁵/ml, at Gram positive coccus, and the gram-negative Bacillus was 8.8x10³/ml in the viewing method. [0051]

[Effect of the Invention] According to the dyeing method of this invention, since it is dyed by a drainage system, dry immobilization like Gram's stain is not necessarily needed. For this reason, a test sample can be prepared in a short time including a dyeing process, and large shortening of dyeing time is possible.

[0052]Being able to carry out by the easy operation which mixes a sample and a reagent, skill like Gram's stain is not required. Since the dyeing process is easy, the automation from dyeing to measurement (flow cytometry, image analysis, etc.) is easy.

[0053] According to the bacteria detecting method of this invention, it is possible to calculate bacteria with sufficient accuracy, without being influenced by impurity. Specifically, the number of microorganism about a 10⁴ individual / ml can be calculated.

[0054]In a culture medium, it can catch certainly also about the bacilli (sample with bacteriostatic action, etc.) which do not grow easily.

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TECHNICAL FIELD

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the dyeing method and detecting method of the bacteria in a clinical sample, and the bacteria which exist in a urine sample suitably especially.

[Translation done.]

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PRIOR ART

[Description of the Prior Art]When the bacterial count in urine judges the existence of infection, it is an important parameter on a clinical diagnosis. Generally, the case where 105 or more bacterial counts/ml in urine appear is made into a positivity as a judging standard of urinary tract infection (Urinary Tract Infection). It is considered as negativity noting that it is contamination urine (normal bacterial flora) in 103 or less pieces/ml. About 104 cases/ml are made into re-***** in many cases, although it is a judgment suspension region.

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EFFECT OF THE INVENTION

[Effect of the Invention] According to the dyeing method of this invention, since it is dyed by a drainage system, dry immobilization like Gram's stain is not necessarily needed. For this reason, a test sample can be prepared in a short time including a dyeing process, and large shortening of dyeing time is possible.

[0052]Being able to carry out by the easy operation which mixes a sample and a reagent, skill like Gram's stain is not required. Since the dyeing process is easy, the automation from dyeing to measurement (flow cytometry, image analysis, etc.) is easy.

[0053]According to the bacteria detecting method of this invention, it is possible to calculate bacteria with sufficient accuracy, without being influenced by impurity. Specifically, the number of microorganism about a 10^4 individual / ml can be calculated.

[0054]In a culture medium, it can catch certainly also about the bacilli (sample with bacteriostatic action, etc.) which do not grow easily.

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TECHNICAL PROBLEM

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]An object of this invention is to provide the dyeing method which can detect bacteria efficiently promptly without cultivating, and a detecting method, even if impurity exists in a sample.

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MEANS

[Means for Solving the Problem] A bacteria dyeing method of this invention consists of making a cationic surface-active agent act, accelerating bacterial coloring matter permeability in a sample containing bacteria, making coloring matter act on it further, and dyeing bacteria it in pH 2.0-4.5.

[0012]

[Embodiment of the Invention]In the above-mentioned pH, this invention persons found out that (1) bacteria are dyed better than neutrality and alkalinity and that un-unique dyeing of (2) mucus thread could be suppressed, and mucus thread could be dissolved to some extent. [0013]In order to maintain said pH, acid or the buffer of electric dissociation exponent 1-5 can be used. If it is said pH range and a thing which can maintain pH 2.0-3.0 preferably, it will not be limited especially as a buffer, but citrate, an phosphate, phthalate, a glycine, succinic acid, lactic acid, beta-alanine, epsilon-aminocaproic acid, fumaric acid, etc. can be used conveniently. The amount used can be used in the quantity which can maintain said pH range, and can be used in the range of 10 - 500mM.

[0014]Quarternary ammonium salt suitably shown by the following formulas although a cationic surface-active agent in particular is not limited;

[Formula 12]
$$R_{1}$$

$$R_{2}-N-R_{4}$$

$$R_{3}$$

It can use $(R_1 \text{ is } [\text{ alkyl group}; R_2 \text{ of the carbon numbers } 8-18, R_3, \text{ and } R_4]$ the same or different among a formula, and alkyl group [of the carbon numbers 1-3] or benzyl; Y^- is halogen ion).

[0015]For example, decyl trimethylammonium salt, dodecyl trimethylammonium salt, tetradecyl trimethylammonium salt, hexadecyl trimethylammonium salt, and octadecyl trimethylammonium salt are used suitably. About the amount used, 10-30000mg/l. of 100 - 3000 mg/l is preferably preferred.

[0016]By adding a cationic surface-active agent in a sample containing bacteria, injury of the bacterial cell membrane is carried out, and coloring matter enters easily. As a result, a bacterial intracellular substance and coloring matter join together efficiently, bacteria are often dyed, and it becomes easy to discriminate impurity. On the other hand, mucus thread, red corpuscles, a fragment of a cell, etc. will be dissolved or contracted, and influence of detection on bacterial will be reduced.

[0017] About coloring matter, especially if bacteria can be dyed in said pH region, it will not

be restricted. Although suitable concentration differs for every coloring matter about concentration, it can be used in 0.1-100 ppm (the last concentration), for example. As for coloring matter used from a point of bacterial ability to detect, it is advantageous to use a fluorochrome which combines with one of the ingredients which constitute bacteria at least, and shows a fluorescence. For example, coloring matter of the following (1) - (11) can be used.

[0018](1) Thiazole orange [0019](2)

[0024](7)
[Formula 18]

$$CH_2$$
 2 CH_3CH_2 NH
 $S = (CH = CH)_2 - CH$ NH
 CH_2 3 CH_3 NH
 CH_2 3 CH_3 NH
 CH_2 3 CH_3 NH
 CH_3 NH
 CH_2 3 CH_3 NH
 CH_3 N

[0025](8)

[Formula 19]

[0026](9)

[Formula 20]

[0027](10) Compound expressed with the following general formulas:[Formula 21]

inside of formula, and R_1 -- alkyl group; R_2 of a hydrogen atom or the carbon numbers 1-3, and R_3 -- a hydrogen atom. An alkyl group of the carbon numbers 1-3, or an alkoxy group of the carbon numbers 1-3; R_4 A hydrogen atom, An acyl group or an alkyl group of the carbon numbers 1-3; 1 or 2; X- of carbon atom; n for which R5 was replaced by an alkyl group of a sulfur atom, an oxygen atom, or the carbon numbers 1-3 as for alkyl group; Z of a hydrogen atom and the carbon numbers 1-3 which may be replaced is an anion.

[0028](11) Compound expressed with the following general formulas: [Formula 22]

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
R_{2} \\
\hline
Z \\
\hline
N \\
R_{1}
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
C H = C H \xrightarrow{\eta} C H = \begin{array}{c}
N \\
\hline
R_{1}
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
R_{2} \\
R_{3}
\end{array}$$

inside of formula, and R_1 -- alkyl group; R_2 of a hydrogen atom or the carbon numbers 1-18, and R_3 -- a hydrogen atom. The alkyl group of the carbon numbers 1-3, or the alkoxy group of the carbon numbers 1-3; R_4 is a hydrogen atom, an acyl group, or carbon in which alkyl group; Z of the carbon numbers 1-18 has sulfur, oxygen, or an alkyl group of the carbon numbers 1-3,;n is 0, 1, or 2, and; X- is an anion.

[0029](1) can obtain a commercial item among these coloring matter. (2) and (3) can be obtained from Japanese Sensitizing dye Research institute. (5) - (9) can be obtained from Molecular Probes and Inc.

[0030]As for (11), a manufacturing method is indicated to JP,10-319010,A (10) at JP,9-104683,A.

[0031]It is the following coloring matter especially among coloring matter shown by a general formula of (10).;

[Formula 23]

[0032]Coloring matter of especially the next among the coloring matter shown by the general formula of (11);

** -- it is suitable.

[0033]Since bacterial fluorescent-staining nature is increased and un-unique dyeing of impurity can be controlled by dyeing under coexistence of one of mineral salt among sulfate or a nitrate, it is desirable. As the amount used, it can be used preferably ten to 500 mM in the density range of 50 - 200mM.

[0034]bacteria checked by a urine sample in a staining technique of this invention -- for example, E.coli, Staphyrococcus sp., Pseudomonas sp., Klebsiella sp., Serratia sp., Enterobacter sp., Enterococcus sp., Streptpococc us sp., Citrobacter sp., etc. are dyed suitably. It is applicable not only to a urine sample but other clinical samples, such as blood and cerebrospinal fluid.

[0035]A staining technique of this invention can be enforced by mixing a sample, solution containing a cationic surface-active agent, and a solution containing coloring matter. Although coloring matter may be made to contain in solution containing a cationic surface-active agent, when coloring matter to be used is unstable in solution, Coloring matter is dissolved into water soluble organic solvents, such as methanol, ethanol, and ethylene glycol, and if it is made to mix with solution which contains a cationic surface-active agent at the time of use, the preservation stability of coloring matter can be raised.

[0036]Although in particular reaction temperature and time are not limited, temperature can be carried out at 15-50 **, and time can be carried out in 15 minutes after immediately after mixing.

[0037]Although a sample dyed by a staining technique of this invention can be observed with a microscope or an image recognition device and can also detect bacteria, it can detect and calculate bacteria with high degree of accuracy by flow cytometry.

[0038]Namely, a detecting method of bacteria of this invention dilutes a sample containing ** bacteria with pH 2.0 to 4.5 solution containing a cationic surface-active agent, Accelerate bacterial coloring matter permeability and the fixed time dyeing reaction of the ** this sample is carried out using a fluorochrome, ** Introduce into a primary detecting element of flow cytometer a sample processed at said process, Cell each of dyed bacteria is irradiated, the scattered light and a fluorescence which are shown from this cell are measured, and a process of separating and calculating bacteria and other ingredients based on pulse width reflecting signal strength of the scattered light of which ** measurement was done, and fluorescence, or the length of particles is included.

[0039]In order to separate and calculate bacteria and other ingredients, it can carry out combining a signal acquired by measurement. Combination of for example, forward scattering light intensity, forward scattering optical pulse width and forward scattering light

intensity, fluorescence intensity, and forward scattering optical pulse width and fluorescence intensity is mentioned as a combination of a signal. A two-dimensional distribution map (scatter diagram) is suitably created first, for example in combination of forward scattering light intensity and forward scattering optical pulse width, Specify a group which contains bacteria on a distribution map, perform gating, mainly separate mucus thread, and further to a group by which gating was carried out in combination of forward scattering light intensity and fluorescence intensity. Furthermore a two-dimensional distribution map is created and bacteria and other ingredients (a crystal, a fragment of a cell, etc.) are separated from a difference in fluorescence intensity. A key map is shown in drawing 7.

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EXAMPLE

[Example] Although the suitable example for below is shown, this invention is not limited to this.

Example 1 reagent presentation (diluent)

Quantity tetradecyl trimethylammonium star's picture set to citrate 100mMNaOH pH4.1 0.1% (w/v) (stain solution)

Coloring matter A (following structural formulae) 40ppm (ethylene glycol solution)

[0041]Diluent 1000mul of the above-mentioned presentation in 100micro of samples I containing culture Escherichia coli and a stain solution were added so that the last concentration of the coloring matter A might be set to 1 ppm, it was made to react for 30 seconds and the flow cytometer which uses a red semiconductor laser as a light source performed 40 ** of measurement of the scattered light and fluorescence (analysis capacity 7.8microl). As contrast, it measured using the reagent which does not contain a tetradecyl trimethylammonium star's picture. A result is shown in drawing 1.

[0042] When the reagent which does not contain a tetradecyl trimethylammonium star's picture was used (left in the figure), fluorescence intensity is 30 or less ch, and most Escherichia coli was not dyed. On the other hand, in the tetradecyl trimethylammonium star's picture, when 0.1% (w/v) was included, the group of (figure Nakamigi) and Escherichia coli

was distributed over 50 or more ch with fluorescence intensity, and it was checked that the dye affinity is increasing.

[0043]

Example 2 reagent presentation (diluent)

Citrate 100mM (pH 2.5) tetradecyl trimethylammonium star's picture 0.1% (w/v) sodium sulfate 90mM (stain solution)

It is the same as Example 1.[0044]The sample containing each culture bacteria (E. coli, S.aureus, Kpneumoniae, C.freundii, E.faecalis) was measured like Example 1 using the reagent of the above-mentioned presentation. A result is shown in <u>drawing 2</u>.

[0045] When each bacteria did not contain a tetradecyl trimethylammonium star's picture, fluorescence intensity was low, and they were hardly dyed, but by adding a tetradecyl trimethylammonium star's picture, fluorescence intensity increased and often being dyed was checked. When sodium sulfate is further added in Escherichia coli measurement

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1]In Example 1 of this invention, it is a scatter diagram of fluorescence intensity-forward scattering light intensity when culture Escherichia coli is measured.

[Drawing 2]In Example 2 of this invention, it is a scatter diagram of fluorescence intensity-forward scattering light intensity when the cultivated various bacteria are measured.

[Drawing 3] In Example 3 of this invention, it is the graph which showed the result of the dilution linearity examination.

[Drawing 4] In Example 4 of this invention, it is a correlation diagram of the method of this invention, and the measurement result in a CLED culture medium.

[Drawing 5] In Example 5 of this invention, it is the scatter diagram which showed the measurement result of the gram-negative Bacillus.

[Drawing 6] In Example 6 of this invention, it is the scatter diagram which showed the measurement result of Gram positive coccus.

[Drawing 7] It is a key map of the detecting method of the bacteria in this invention.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]A bacterial dyeing method which consists of making a cationic surface-active agent act, accelerating bacterial coloring matter permeability in a sample containing bacteria, making coloring matter act on it further, and dyeing bacteria it in pH 2.0-4.5.

[Claim 2]A dyeing method of the bacteria according to claim 1 which are the fluorochromes which said coloring matter combines with one of the ingredients which constitute bacteria at least, and show a fluorescence.

[Claim 3]A dyeing method of the bacteria according to claim 2 in which said fluorochrome is at least one chosen from the following groups.;

(1) A thiazole orange (2)

[Formula 1]

(3)

(4)

(5)

[Formula 4]

(6)

[Formula 5]

(7)

[Formula 6]

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} CH_3 & 2 & (CH_3CH_2)_3 & + \\ (CH_2)_3 & 2 & (CH_3CH_2)_3 & + \\ (CH_2)_3 & - & & & \\ (CH_2)_3 & - & & & \\ (CH_2)_3 & & & \\ (CH_2)_3 & & & & \\ (CH_2)_4 & & & \\ ($$

(8)

[Formula 7]

(9)

[Formula 8]

(10) A compound expressed with the following general formulas:[Formula 9]

inside of formula, and R_1 -- alkyl group; R_2 of a hydrogen atom or the carbon numbers 1-3, and R_3 -- a hydrogen atom. The alkyl group of the carbon numbers 1-3, or the alkoxy group of the carbon numbers 1-3; R_4 A hydrogen atom, An acyl group or the alkyl group of the carbon numbers 1-3; 1 or 2; X- of carbon atom; n for which R5 was replaced by the alkyl group of a sulfur atom, an oxygen atom, or the carbon numbers 1-3 as for alkyl group; Z of a hydrogen atom and the carbon numbers 1-3 which may be replaced is an anion.

(11) Compound expressed with the following general formulas: [Formula 10]

$$R_{2}$$

$$Z$$

$$C H = C H \rightarrow_{n} C H$$

$$R_{1}$$

$$X^{-}$$

$$R_{2}$$

inside of formula, and R_1 -- alkyl group; R_2 of a hydrogen atom or the carbon numbers 1-18, and R_3 -- a hydrogen atom. An alkyl group of the carbon numbers 1-3, or an alkoxy group of the carbon numbers 1-3; R_4 is a hydrogen atom, an acyl group, or carbon in which alkyl group; Z of the carbon numbers 1-18 has sulfur, oxygen, or an alkyl group of the carbon numbers 1-3,; R_4 is an anion.

[Claim 4]A dyeing method of the bacteria according to claim 1 which use a buffer of electric dissociation exponent 1-5 in order to maintain said pH.

[Claim 5]A dyeing method of the bacteria according to claim 4 which are at least one chosen from a group which this buffer becomes from citrate, an phosphate, phthalate, a glycine, succinic acid, lactic acid, beta-alanine, epsilon-aminocaproic acid, and fumaric acid. [Claim 6]Quarternary ammonium salt a cationic surface-active agent is indicated to be by the following formulas;